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Hearings Bill
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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STUART SYMINGTON
ACTING CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Today, high level representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency delivered to the Committee copies of some seven sets of notes and letters which were received at the CIA, or by CIA officials, between July 1972 and January 1973.

The first letter is signed "Jim". The other notes and letters are anonymous. Nevertheless, we are informed that there is some reason to believe that these letters were sent by Mr. James W. McCord, the former CIA employee who has been convicted in the Watergate bugging case.

The subject of the notes and letters is a concern that there were attempts, following the Watergate burglary, to blame the CIA for the Watergate bugging incident.

Because of their potential impact on the Watergate case, the Committee is not releasing these letters at this time; instead the Committee is transferring today copies of these documents to the U.S. Attorney's Office and to the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, chaired by Senator Sam J. Ervin, which is investigating the Watergate case.

I would point out that this is the route which the Committee has followed now with respect to three sets of documents which have come into the Committee's possession, and which were, at the time we received them, apparently not in the possession of either the Senate Select Committee, or the U.S. Attorney's office.

The first set was eleven memoranda of conversation given to the Committee by Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters, Deputy Director of CIA, dealing with the events in late 1972 and early 1973. The second set was two documents, dated during the Summer of 1970, which I obtained the end of last week, dealing with the subject of potential illegal domestic intelligence operations.

The Committee will continue to cooperate with other Congressional committees and other Agencies responsible for pursuing the current investigation. Consistent with these primary responsibilities, the Committee will make available, as soon as possible, all material which can be made public.

The Committee would emphasize, however, that it does not wish to release raw data without cross-examination. This is necessary in order for all pertinent facts to be collected and for all to be given an opportunity to be heard.

The Committee will meet soon in executive session to review these documents and to plan any further investigation into intelligence-related aspects of this and connected matters.

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